

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 9-12 are pending in this application. Claims 9-10 are independent and hereby amended. No new matter has been added. It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes to claims are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

II. SUPPORT FOR AMENDMENT IN SPECIFICATION

Support for this amendment is provided throughout the Specification as originally filed and specifically at paragraphs [0234]-[0235] of Applicants' corresponding published application. By way of example and not limitation:

[0234] The foregoing sequence of processes can be executed by hardware or software. When a sequence of processes are executed by software, a program that composes the software is installed in dedicated hardware of a computer. Instead, the software is installed form a record medium or the like in for example a general-purpose personal computer that executes various functions installed as various programs.

[0235] As shown in FIG. 1 and FIG. 3, the record medium may be unaccompanied by the main body of the record and reproduction

apparatus 1 or the record and reproduction apparatus 101 and delivered to the user to provide the program. In this case, the record medium on which the program has been recorded may be a magnetic disc (including a flexible disc), an optical disc (including CD-ROM (Compact Disc-Read Only Memory) and DVD (Digital Versatile Disc)), an optical-magnetic disc (including MD (Mini-Disc)), the removable medium 28 or 128 including a package medium composed of a semiconductor memory or the like. Instead, the record medium may be, pre-installed in the main body of the computer. In this case, the record medium on which the program has been recorded may be the ROM 12 or 112 or a hard disk included in the storage section 25 or 125.

III. RESPONSE TO REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §101

Claims 9-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 9 and 10 are hereby amended in this response, thereby obviating the §101 rejections.

IV. RESPONSE TO REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 9-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,112,010 to Koyama (hereinafter merely “Koyama”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,236,687 to Kato et al. (“Kato”). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for at least the following reasons.

Claim 9 recites, *inter alia*:

... **the directory for the management information file being different from other directories of the computer-readable medium** ... (Emphasis added)

On page 7 of the Office Action, the Examiner relies upon Kato to teach the above identified features of claim 9. However, Kato, in its entirety, does not teach or suggest the above identified feature of claim 9.

More specifically, Fig. 14 and col. 14, line 57 – col. 15, 52 of Kato, which show and describe the directory structure in Kato do not teach or suggest the above identified feature of claim 9.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Koyama and Kato, considered either alone or in combination, fail to disclose, suggest or render predictable the above-identified features of claim 9. Specifically, Koyama and Kato do not disclose or render predictable “the directory for the management information file being different from other directories of the computer-readable medium” as recited in claim 9.

For at least the foregoing reasons Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 9 is patentable over Koyama and Kato, and respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

For reasons similar to, or somewhat similar to, those described above with regard to independent claim 9, independent claims 10-12 are also patentable, and Applicants thus respectfully request reconsideration of the rejections thereto.

CONCLUSION

Because Applicants maintain that all claims are allowable for at least the reasons presented hereinabove, in the interests of brevity, this response does not comment on each and every comment made by the Examiner in the Office Action. This should not be taken as acquiescence of the substance of those comments, and Applicants reserve the right to address such comments.

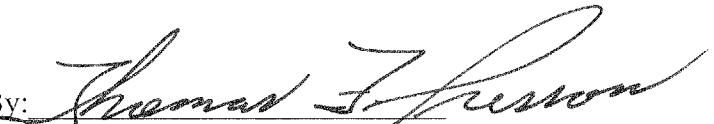
In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosure in the cited reference, or references, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the reference, or references, providing the basis for a contrary view.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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